

# MISSOURI LEAD POISONING RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

**Evaluate Lead Poisoning Risk at Each Health Care Visit** (at least annually up to 72 months of age to determine if the health risk for lead has changed).

## **Does the child...**

- ( ) Have siblings or playmates who have (or did have) lead poisoning?
- ( ) Live in or frequently visit a house or daycare built before 1950?
- ( ) Live in or visit a house built before 1978 with chipping or peeling paint, or renovations or remodeling within the last six months?
- ( ) Eat or mouth non-food items - pica? (a perversion of appetite with craving for substances not fit for food, such as dirt, starch, clay, ashes, plaster, etc.)
- ( ) Play in bare soil or live in a lead smelting area?
- ( ) Live with an individual that works with or has hobbies using lead?
- ( ) Receive unusual medicines or folk remedies?

**If answer is yes to any of the above, then perform a blood lead test.**

## **Who should be tested?**

- In High-Risk areas the following activities shall occur:
  - Any child under the age of six years living in or visiting for 10 hours per week or more, the high-risk area, will be tested annually for lead.
  - Day care facilities are required to record a “proof of lead testing” signed by the Health Care Provider performing the test within thirty (30) days of the child’s enrollment. If the parent/guardian does not provide it or a written statement stating why they do not want the child tested, the Day Care Facility is to offer the parent assistance in scheduling a test.
  - Any child found to be at High-Risk, is living in a residence that was built before 1978, and is undergoing renovation, may be tested every six months and once following completion of the work (also applies to children found to be at high-risk in non high-risk areas).
- In Non-High Risk areas the following activities shall occur:
  - Any child under the age of six years visiting for 10 hours per week or more, a high-risk area, will be blood tested annually for lead.
  - All Medicaid eligible children will be blood tested for lead at age 12 and 24 months of age. It is recommended that all children (regardless of Medicaid eligibility) be blood tested for lead at 12 and 24 months of age (This statement does not appear in the law, but applies as HCFA policy and DHSS recommendations).
  - Beginning at age six months up to age six years every child (regardless of Medicaid eligibility) will be screened by verbal risk assessment (DHSS/DSS questionnaire) to determine whether they are at high risk.
  - Every child, less than age six, found to be at high risk, will be blood tested for lead.

- CMS/Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services requires a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months for all Medicaid eligible children.
- PREGNANT WOMEN who are at risk by history.

Lead poisoning is not easy to detect. Sometimes no obvious symptoms occur, and sometimes the symptoms are the same as those of more common illnesses. Some of the early signs and symptoms of lead poisoning in children are:

- Persistent tiredness or hyperactivity
- Irritability
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Reduced attention span
- Difficulty sleeping
- Constipation

## Health Effects of Lead Exposure

### CHILDREN

#### Low Level Exposure

- behavior disorders
- learning disabilities
- hyperactivity
- growth failure
- developmental delay
- hearing loss

#### High Level Exposure

- abdominal pain
- anemia
- encephalopathy (swelling of brain)
- unexplained seizures

### ADULTS

#### Low Level Exposure

- constipation
- wrist drop
- joint pain
- memory loss
- concentration difficulties

#### High Level Exposure

- abdominal pain
- anemia
- encephalopathy
- infertility

**Note:** Often there are no overt symptoms when blood lead levels are moderately elevated.